

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

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O R 251104Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4530

INFO CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJ: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON US RELATIONS WITH THAILAND

REFS: A. STATE 135431

B. CINCPAC PA LNO 291044Z MAR 74

C. BANGKOK 5108

1. LELYVELD SAW AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 2. LELYVELD ALSO MET IN BANGKOK WITH SEVERAL OTHER CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS, BOTH THAI AND AMERICAN, IN PREPARATION FOR HIS ROUND-UP ON US PRESENCE IN ASAI. INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR WAS MOSTLY ON BACKGROUND, WITH PERMISSION TO USE A FEW DIRECT QUOTES. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF THESE AUTHORIZED QUOTES.

2. THE 27,000 FIGURE WAS CLEARED FOR RELEASE IN APPROVED WASHINGTON Q'S AND A'S. THE AMBASSADOR DOES NOT RECALL DISCUSSING PLANS FOR RETAINING THIS LEVEL OF FORCES DURING 1975 DRY SEASON, ALTHOUGH THE SEASONAL NATURE OF COMMUNIST OFFENSIVES IN INDOCHINA IS WELL KNOWN AND MAY HAVE ARISEN DURING WIDE-RANGING BACKGROUND DISCUSSION.

3. WITH RESPECT TO SECRETRY KISSINGER'S VIEWS ON THE BASES, AMBASSADOR RECOLLECTS MAKING TWO POINTS DURING BACKGROUND

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DISCUSSION: (A) DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI IS FOND OF

TELLING PEOPLE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ALLEGED REMAKR TO
HIM THAT OF COURSE THE USAF AIRCRAFT COULD ONLY STAY IN
THAILAND AS LONG AS THE THAIS WANTED THEM TO REMAIN, AND
(B) THE PRESENCE OF THESE WAR PLANES IN THAILAND AS A POTENTIAL
DETERRENT AGAINST MASSIVE NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY
ADVENTURES IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SECRETARY'S FORMULA
FOR ACHIEVING PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN INDOCHINA.
KINTNER

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